

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 AID-20 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01 L-03 TRSE-00

PRS-01 DRC-01 IGA-02 ACDA-19 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ARAE-00 /130 W

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O 231734Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO CNO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2222

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

URUEDDFA/USCINCSO CZ IMMEDIATE

USNAVSO CZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5592

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y DTG AND PARAGRAPHS MISNUMBERED

FOR ADMIRALS HOLLOWAY AND BLOUNT FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: 2ND DESTROYER FOR THE ECUADOREAN NAVY

REF: A) QUITO 5187 B) QUITO 5163

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING A SECOND "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER FOR THE ECUADOREAN NAVY IN THE PROXIMATE FUTURE, WE ARE AT THE SAME TIME MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE AT LEAST A SEMBLANCE OF BALANCE IN OUR DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH EACH OF THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY SERVICES. THAT BALANCE IS NOW THREATENING TO COME UNDONE AS A RESULT OF THE SATISFACTION OF ARMY MATERIEL NEEDS, AND THE PRESENTATION ON AUGUST 22 OF THREE MAJOR LETTERS OF OFFER BY THE USAF TO THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FOR AT-33'S, F-5E'S, AND A-37B'S). AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, WE HAVE
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APPROACHED THE THREE SERVICES SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY, PROVIDING

EQUIPMENT SURVEY MISSIONS FOR THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE, BUT NOT FOR THE NAVY. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS DONE FOR PERFECTLY SOUND REASONS (AMONG WHICH WAS THE FACT THAT THE NAVY SEEMED TO KNOW ITS NEEDS, AND DID NOT WISH A SURVEY MISSION), THE FACT THAT THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE NOW SEE THE PROSPECT OF HAVING THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS MET CAN ONLY HEIGHTEN THE ECUADOREAN NAVY'S SENSE OF BEING LEFT OUT, WHEN, IN FACT, ITS POSITION IN THIS GOVERNMENT IS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THAT OF THE AIR FORCE, AND ITS TRANSPARENT EQUIPMENT NEEDS AS GREAT. RADM BLOUNT, USNAVSO, ARRIVES MONDAY FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, AND I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT HE WILL BE SUBJECT TO CAREFUL QUESTIONING BY NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL VASQUEZ ON THE STATUS OF A REPLY TO HIS (VASQUEZ) AUGUST 2 LETTER TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY (QUITO 5163, 052050Z AUG 74). I WOULD HOPE VERY MUCH THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SOME ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR ADMIRAL BLOUNT TO CONVEY TO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ BEFORE HE ENTERS THIS PARTICULAR JAGUAR'S DEN AGAIN AS HE MAKES HIS FIRST FORMAL VISIT TO ECUADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. BUILDING OUR TIES TO THE ECUADOREAN NAVY HAS BEEN A SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT, PROTRACTED, AND OCCASIONALLY PAINFUL PROCESS, BUT HAS BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE GOOD WILL AND EFFORTS OF MANY OFFICIALS IN THE WASHINGTON AND SOUTHERN COMMAND COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY ADMIRALS ZUMWALT AND HOLLOWAY, BLOUNT AND OTHERS. THE ECUADOREAN NAVY CHIEF, RADM VASQUEZ, HAS FROM TIME TO TIME BEEN DIFFICULT, ALMOST TRUCULENT. THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE A GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE FOR AT LEAST A MINIMUM LEVEL OF RESPONSIVENESS TO THE ECUADOREAN NAVY'S NEEDS.

3. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE RANGE OF DEFINITION OF WHAT THESE NEEDS MIGHT BE, INCLUDING FLEET OILERS, PATROL CRAFT, FLOATING DRY-DOCKS, LANDING SHIPS, AND EVEN IN A COUPLE OF EXCHANGES, TALK OF A SMALL, CONVENTIONALLY-POWERED SUBMARINE. BUT TWO THREADS RUN THROUGH IT ALL: FIRST, BOTH VASQUEZ AND OTHER OFFICERS HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR THAT THEY REGARD THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

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FOR A NAVY THAT DOES NOT HAVE TO SLINK INTO THE CORNER IN EMBARRASSMENT IS A COUPLE OF SEA-WORTHY DESTROYER-CLASS SHIPS; AND SECOND, THEY ALMOST DESPERATELY WANT TO "BUY AMERICAN." THEY SEEM PREPARED TO YIELD ON ALMOST EVERY OTHER POINT, BUT WE ARE PERSUADED THAT A SECOND "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER IS THEIR SINE QUA NON.

4. WE UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT, AND ARE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN

PATIENTLY TO THEM THAT THE USN SIMPLY NO LONGER HAS THE FLEET INVENTORY THAT IT DID IN YEARS PAST, AND THAT A SECOND DD FROM THE LINE IN FY 76 PROBABLY IS JUST NOT GOING TO BE AVAILABLE. AND THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ECUADOR'S STANDING IN OUR EYES VIS-A-VIS ANY OTHER COUNTRY; OR ANY INTENT TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEIR NAVY VERSUS THEIR AIR FORCE OR ARMY; OR ANY CAPITULATION TO PRIVATE INTERESTS IN THE U.S. INIMICAL TO ECUADOR

5. BUT WE DO HAVE OUTSTANDING THE AUGUST 2 LETTER FROM ADMIRAL VASQUEZ TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY (QUITO 5163, 052050Z AUG 74) AND WE DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO FOR THE EUCADOREAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE, VASQUEZ IS GOING TO BE INCREASINGLY ON THE SPOT FOR SOME ENCOURAGING WORD FROM US. IF A SECOND HOT SHIP CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE IN FY 76, I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH FOR ADMIRAL BLOUNT TO BE ABLE TO BRING WITH HIM NEWS OF THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A SECOND DD AVAILABLE FROM THE ACTIVE INVENTORY IN FY 77.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE PROVIDED, BY IMMEDIATE NIACT MESSAGE, WITH A REPLY, INFORMAL OR TENTATIVE IF NEED BY, TO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ' MESSAGE OF AUGUST 2 TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY, HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR ADMIRAL BLOUNT'S MEETING WITH VASQUEZ ON MONDAY AUGUST 26.
BREWSTER

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